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paintings, one on farming prospects and a bibliography with sixty-five titles. He says that the conservation of moisture in the soil by means of deep plowing is proving successful in the cultivation of the dry lands.

**The Handbook of Nyasaland.** Comprising Historical, Statistical and General Information concerning the Nyasaland Protectorate. First year of publication. Compiled from official and other reliable sources. 292 pp. and illustrations. The Government Printer, Zomba, Nyasaland Protectorate, 1909. 3s. 6d.

A useful compilation including all phases of the development work in the Protectorate.

### ASIA

**L'Empire japonais et sa Vie économique.** Par Joseph Dautremere, Consul de France. 308 pp., map and illustrations. Librairie Orientale et Américaine. E. Guilmoto, Editeur. Paris, 1910. F. 6.

The two parts of the title correspond to the two principal divisions of the book. It contains, first, a brief outline of the geography of Japan, and, secondly, a survey of its economic resources and activities. Compiled from various official and unofficial sources by the hand of one who knows the country through personal acquaintance, it is a handy guide to the land of the rising sun for the student as well as the prospective trader. One must beware, however, of too readily adopting the author's patronizing attitude towards modern progress in Japan, which betrays the tourist's way of looking at things rather than that of the scholar, the traveler, the philosopher, who tries to understand, and account for, what seems foreign to him. Nations ought to be judged by their aims and ideals, as embodied in their best men, quite as much as by the discrepancy, often ridiculous, between them and the crowd behind the leaders. A Japanese traveling in France, or in any other of the western countries, might make there, eventually, some observations quite as startling as the author records of Japan.

M. K. G.

### NEAR EAST

**Kairo—Bagdad—Konstantinopel.** Wanderungen und Stimmungen von E. v. Hoffmeister, General-leutnant z. D. x and 262 pp., illustrations and map. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1910. M. 8.

The author, a retired German army-officer, has traveled extensively in many parts of the nearer East, some of which are rarely visited by travelers; and he has also supplemented his travels by collateral studies. With his heart full of his favorite subject we can understand that he could not help speaking about it in public, and many a reader of the magazine in which he published his earlier articles certainly has thanked him for a pleasant hour of reading. But it is a pity that successes of this kind too often lead a writer to overestimate his literary and scientific abilities. To write up "the Past and Present of the nature and the people of the Orient," as the author attempts in this book, and to "develop his report into a philosophy of travel," by interweaving it with his personal impressions and reflections, is more than the amateur can ever hope to accomplish. Hence, measured by the ambition of the author, the book is a perfect failure; for the first part of his book he lacks the qualities of the geographer and the historian, and for the latter those of the philosopher. He is a pleasant